

Message Text

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62

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

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R 072135Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY LIMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0005

INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

AMEMBASSY PANAMA

AMEMBASSY QUITO

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, XM

SUBJ: PERUVIAN-VENEZUELAN COMMEMORATION OF BATTLE OF

AYACUCHO TAKES ON BROADER PERSPECTIVE;

POSSIBLE LATIN AMERICAN SUMMIT

REF: LIMA 3531 (NOTAL)

1. IN THEIR MEETING OF FEBRUARY 1973, THE PRESIDENTS OF PERU AND VENEZUELA ESTABLISHED A MIXED COMMISSION TO PREPARE A SUITABLE JOINT CELEBRATION OF THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY (DEC. 9) OF THE BATTLE OF AYACUCHO, THE FINAL VICTORY IN THE WAR FOR SOUTH AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE. NOW, REPORTEDLY AT THE INITIATIVE OF VENEZUELAN PRESIDENT PEREZ, THE SCOPE OF THE CELEBRATION HAS BEEN EXPANDED AND ADDITIONAL COUNTRIES HAVE BEEN INVITED TO PARTICIPATE.

2. CABINET MEMBERS FROM BOLIVIA, CHILE, COLOMBIA, ECUADOR,

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PANAMA, PERU AND VENEZUELA (ARGENTINA WAS REPRESENTED BY ITS

AMBASSADOR) MET IN LIMA ON MAY 3-4. THE PERUVIAN-VENEZUELAN MIXED COMMISSION WAS ENLARGED TO INCLUDE THE OTHER COUNTRIES AND THE SESQUICENTENNIAL (AUGUST 6) OF THE BATTLE OF JUNIN AS WELL AS THE SESQUICENTENNIAL (DEC 7) OF THE CONVOCAION BY BOLIVAR OF THE AMPHYCTIONIC CONGRESS IN PANAMA WERE ADDED AS EVENTS TO BE INCLUDED IN THE COMMEMORATIVE ACTS. A NUMBER OF DECISIONS WERE ADOPTED WITH REGARD TO THE CELEBRATIONS, INCLUDING A DECEMBER MEETING OF THE PRESIDENTS OF THE PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES. THE MIXED COMMISSION WILL MEET AGAIN IN JUNE IN CARACAS TO CONSIDER THE POSSIBILITY OF HOLDING A "LATIN AMERICAN MEETING AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL" TO CELEBRATE THE CONVOCAION OF THE CONGRESS OF PANAMA.

3. COMMENT: THE POSSIBILITY OF A MEETING OF THE PRESIDENTS OF THE "BOLIVARIAN AND SAN MARTINIAN" COUNTRIES WAS MENTIONED BY PRESIDENT VELASCO AT HIS MAY 2 PRESS CONFERENCE (REFTEL) AND NOW FONMIN DE LA FLOR HAS CONFIRMED THAT VELASCO FORMALLY INVITED THE PRESIDENTS OF THOSE COUNTRIES. A PERUVIAN MEMBER OF THE MIXED COMMISSION TOLD AN EMBASSY OFFICER THAT VENEZUELA IS PRESSING FOR A LATIN AMERICAN SUMMIT MEETING. THIS INITIATIVE IS MEETING SOME OPPOSITION, ESPECIALLY FROM PERU, ON BOTH PRACTICAL GROUNDS AND FOR POLITICAL REASONS. THE FACILITIES AT AYACUCHO ARE HOPELESSLY INADEQUATE TO ACCOMMODATE ALL THE LATIN AMERICAN PRESIDENTS AND THEIR DELEGATIONS, LET ALONE THE LARGE NUMBER OF PRESS REPRESENTATIVES THAT WOULD BE ATTACHED BY SUCH A MEETING. EVEN LIMA WOULD BE HARD PRESSED TO PROVIDE SERVICES FOR SO MANY HIGH-LEVEL VISITORS.

4. PERHAPS MORE WORRISOME ARE THE UNKNOWN POLITICAL PROBLEMS WHICH COULD ARISE IN A LATIN SUMMIT. TWO COME READILY TO MIND: WHETHER CUBA WOULD BE INVITED AND THE POSSIBILITY BOLIVIA WOULD TABLE ITS ASPIRATIONS FOR AN OUTLET TO THE SEA.
DEAN

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